10/518179
DT01 Rec'd PCT/PTC 15 DEC 2004

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-34 (Cancelled)

35. (new) A printer or copier system with at least one of a pre-processing unit and a post-processing unit, comprising:

a printing unit that generates a print image on a carrier material;

an operating unit that is connected via a data line with the printing unit and via which data are transferable between the printing unit and the operating unit, the operating unit outputting at least one graphical user interface on a display unit for operation of the printing unit;

at least one processing unit connected with at least one of the printing unit and the operating unit for processing of the carrier material and such that data are transferable between the processing unit and at least one of the printing unit and the operating unit; and

in the processing unit, data are stored that are transferred to at least one of the printing unit and the operating unit and with which the graphical user interface is activated at least for operation of the processing unit.

36. (new) A printer or copier system according to claim 35 wherein data for the generation of at least the graphical user interface for the operation of the processing unit are transferred from the processing unit to a control panel.

37. (new) A printer or copier system according to claim 35 wherein with the aid of transferred data, the graphical user interface is displayed with data stored in at least one of the printing unit and the operating unit.

38. (new) A printer or copier system according to claim 35 wherein at least one common user interface for the printing unit and the processing unit is generated with the aid of transferred data and with aid of data stored in at least one of the operating unit and the printing unit.

39. (new) A printer or copier system according to claim 35 wherein the system comprises a second printing unit that generates a second print image on the carrier material, in the second printing unit data are stored that are transferred to at least one of the operating unit and to the first printing unit and via which a graphical user interface for operation of the second printing unit is at least activated.

40. (new) A printer or copier system according to claim 35 wherein the printing unit has at least one storage region in which program elements are stored that are loaded and executed by the operating unit to generate the graphical user interface, and wherein the operating unit is a client and the printing unit is a server such that the operating unit and the printing unit operate according to a client-server principle.

41. (new) A printer or copier system according to claim 35 wherein the graphical user interface is output with help of a browser program module, the browser program module is executed by a data processing system of the operating unit, and at least distributed objects are executed by the printing unit.

42. (new) A printer or copier system according to claim 41 wherein the distributed objects comprise remote method invocation objects.

43. (new) A printer or copier system according to claim 35 wherein the operating unit is contained in a print server that supplies a print data stream to at least the printing unit.

44. (new) A printer or copier system according to claim 35 wherein the processing unit comprises a pre-processing unit which at least one of a roller unit, a feed unit, a dampening unit and a cutting unit to generate a predetermined paper format.

45. (new) A printer or copier system according to claim 35 wherein the processing unit comprises a post-processing unit which is at least one of a

cutting unit, a binding unit, a stacking unit, a booklet unit, a cooling unit, a dampening unit and a second printing unit.

46. (new) A printer or copier system according to claim 35, wherein program modules to control and to generate the user interface are stored in the printing unit and are executed there, and that the program modules are displayed on a display unit of a data processing system connected via a data line with the printing unit and serving as an operating unit.

47. (new) A printer or copier system according to claim 35 wherein the printing unit and the processing unit are separate structural units.

48. (new) A printer or copier system according to claim 35 wherein the printer or copier system has at least a second operating unit, and the graphical user interface is displayed at a same time on both operating units, inputs in input fields of the graphical user interface being by nature only possible from one of the operating units.

49. (new) A printer or copier system according to claim 35 wherein the printing unit authenticates a respective control panel, and data to generate the graphical user interface are only transferable to an authenticated operating unit.

50. (new) A printer or copier system according to claim 48 wherein given a write request via the operating unit, a write access right is assigned to this operating unit.

51. (new) A printer or copier system according to claim 50 wherein the operating unit only receives the write access right when no further operating unit that has already been granted a write access right is connected with the printing unit.

52. (new) A printer or copier system according to claim 51 wherein given a request for a write access right by the operating unit, a message via

which an operating personnel of a further operating unit is asked to return the write access right is transmitted to the further operating unit.

53. (new) A printer or copier system according to claim 52 wherein the operating unit has a higher user right relative to a further operating unit, and the write access right is withdrawn from the further operating unit given a write access right request by the operating unit.

54. (new) A printer or copier system according to claim 35 wherein the system comprises an electrophotographic printer or copier system.

55. (new) A method to operate a printer or copier system with at least one of a pre-processing unit and a post-processing unit, comprising the steps of:

generating a print image on a carrier material with aid of a printing unit;

operating the printing unit with an operating unit with aid of a graphical user interface output on a display unit, the operating unit being connected with the printing unit with aid of a data line via which data are transferred between the printing unit and the operating unit;

processing the carrier material with the at least one processing unit, the processing unit being connected with at least one of the operating unit and the printing unit for transfer of data between the processing unit and the operating unit; and

with the processing unit transferring data to the operating unit via which said graphical user interface is at least activated for operation of the at least one processing unit.

56. (new) A method according to claim 55 wherein the method is used for operation of an electrophotographic printer or copier system.

57. (new) A printer or copier system having at least one of a pre-processing unit and a post-processing unit, comprising:

a printing unit generating a print image on a carrier material;

at least one processing unit at least one of pre-processing and post-processing the carrier material after the generation of the print image; and

a data processing unit controlling and monitoring execution of print jobs of the printing unit, the data processing unit providing at least one graphical user interface for operation of at least one of the printing unit and the processing unit.

58. (new) A system according to claim 57 wherein the data processing unit comprises at least one of a host computer system and a server computer system, and that the data processing unit controls production flow to generate a document.

59. (new) A system according to claim 57 wherein the data processing unit controls the printing unit and the processing unit to produce the document.

60. (new) A system according to claim 57 wherein the printer or copier system comprises an electrophotographic printer or copier system.

61. (new) A method for operation of a printer or copier system with at least one of a pre-processing unit and a post-processing unit, comprising the steps of:

generating a print image on a carrier material by a printing unit;

processing the carrier material by a processing unit at least one of before and after the generation of the print image; and

controlling and monitoring the execution of a print job by a data processing unit for at least the printing unit, the data processing unit providing a graphical user interface for operation of at least one of the printing unit and the processing unit.

62. (new) A method according to claim 61 wherein the method is used for operation of an electrophotographic printer or copier system.

63. (new) An operating unit for at least one printer or copier, comprising:

a display unit which outputs a graphical user interface, the graphical user interface having a first section with a user interface on which at least one of input and output fields are displayed with information about parameters of at least one of the printer and a processing unit connected with the printer;

a second section having a menu in which a user interface that is displayed in the first section is selected from a plurality of displayable user interfaces; and

at least a third section having at least one graphical function key for operation of at least one of the printer and the processing unit connected with the printer.

64. (new) An operating unit according to claim 63 wherein at least one of structural and function units of the printer as well as of the processing unit are selected with aid of the menu.

65. (new) An operating unit according to claim 63 wherein the menu has a tree-like structure wherein devices are partitioned into at least one of structural and function groups.

66. (new) An operating unit according to claim 63 wherein the displayable user interfaces respectively contain at least one of output fields and input fields.

67. (new) An operating unit according to claim 63 wherein representation and function of the function key significantly corresponds to a key present on at least one of the printer and the processing unit.

68. (new) An operating unit according to claim 63 wherein a plurality of function keys are provided that correspond to operation keys present as hardware on at least one of the printer and the processing unit.

69. (new) An operating unit according to claim 63 wherein a user interface is directly invoked with aid of the function key.

70. (new) An operating unit according to claim 63 wherein at least one of a representation type and an operating type of at least one user interface is switched with aid of the function key.

71. (new) An operating unit according to claim 70 wherein a representation of a control panel in which input fields are adapted for the input with aid of a computer mouse and a second representation in which the input fields are activated for input with aid of a touch-sensitive screen are switched between.

72. (new) An operating unit according to claim 63 wherein the operating unit serves for operation of at least one electrophotographic printer or copier.

73. (new) A method for operation of a printer or copier, comprising the steps of:

outputting a graphical user interface by a display unit;

in a first section of the user interface displaying a user interface on which detailed information is displayed about at least one of parameters of the printer and parameters of a processing unit connected with the printer;

in a second section displaying a menu in which a user interface to be displayed in a first region is selected from a plurality of displayable user interfaces; and

containing in a third region at least one graphical function key of at least one of the printer and the processing unit connected with the printer.

74. (new) A method of claim 73 wherein it is used for operation of an electrophotographic printer or copier.